

Appl. No. 10/769,256
Amdt. Dated August 22, 2008
Reply to Office Action of May 22, 2008

Amendments to Drawing

The attached Replacement Sheet includes a change made to FIG. 2. This Replacement Sheet including FIG. 2 replaces the previously filed Replacement Sheet that included FIG. 2. In amended FIG. 2, the "Printing device" in the box for item 25 has been deleted. This amendment is supported by at least paragraphs [0011] and [0013] and claims 4-6 of the originally filed specification (see Remarks below). Approval of the amendment is earnestly requested.

Attachment: One Replacement Sheet Containing FIG. 2

Appl. No. 10/769,256
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REMARKS

Paragraphs [0011] and [0015] [sic] and FIG. 2 have been amended. The amendments are based on at least paragraphs [0011] and [0013] and claims 4-6 of the originally filed specification (see below).

Claim 1 is amended. The amendment is supported by at least paragraphs [0011] and [0013] and claims 4-6 of the originally filed specification (see below).

No new matter is added by these amendments (see below).

Objections under 35 U.S.C. §132(a)

The amendment filed on 12/19/07 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. §132(a) because it introduces new matter into the disclosure.

In response, Applicant has changed "printing device disposed above the working platform" to "printing means associated with the working platform" in amended paragraphs [0011] and [0013], and has amended FIG. 2 and claim 1 correspondingly. Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced. In particular, the added "printing means associated with the working platform" is fully supported by the original disclosure, claims and drawings for at least the following reasons:

The original title of the invention includes an "APPARATUS MANUFACTURING **PRINTED** LIGHT GUIDE PLATE," and the apparatus of the described embodiment is stated to be "for manufacturing a **printed** LGP" (original paragraph [0011]). Furthermore, when carrying out one embodiment of the present invention, dots are **actually printed** on the surface 212 of the slab 21 (original paragraph [0013]). Therefore the

Appl. No. 10/769,256
Amdt. Dated August 22, 2008
Reply to Office Action of May 22, 2008

original specification at least **inherently discloses** that the apparatus of the described embodiment comprises printing means for printing the dots on the surface 212.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, Applicant submits that the presently added "printing means" "associated with the working platform" in amended paragraphs [0011] and [0013], amended FIG. 2, and amended claim 1 are fully supported by the original disclosure from the standpoint of a person of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, no new matter is introduced in the current amendments.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 1, which now recites "printing means associated with the working platform." Applicant submits that the "printing means associated with the working platform" is inherently disclosed in the original specification for at least the following reasons:

The original title of the invention includes an "APPARATUS MANUFACTURING **PRINTED** LIGHT GUIDE PLATE," and the apparatus of the described embodiment is stated to be "for manufacturing a **printed** LGP" (original paragraph [0011]). Furthermore, when carrying out one embodiment of the present invention, dots are **actually printed** on the surface 212 of the slab 21 (original paragraph [0013]). Therefore, the original specification at least **inherently discloses** that the apparatus of the described embodiment comprises printing means for printing the dots on the surface 212.

Appl. No. 10/769,256
Amdt. Dated August 22, 2008
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For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 complies with the written description requirement. Accordingly, dependent claims 2 and 3 also comply with the written description requirement.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wallgren et al. (US Pat. 4,855,572).

In response to the rejection of claim 1, Applicant has amended this claim, and submits that the claim 1 is novel, unobvious, and patentable over Wallgren et al.

Claim 1 now recites:

“An apparatus for manufacturing a printed light guide plate,
comprising:

a working platform...;

a heater...; and

printing means associated with the working platform, the
printing means being configured for printing a plurality of
scattering dots on the second surface of the transparent slab.”

(Emphasis added.)

Applicant submits that such an apparatus, as set forth in amended claim 1, is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Wallgren et al., for at least the following reasons:

Appl. No. 10/769,256
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Wallgren et al. discloses a working platform 4 with a resistance heater 28 and a control 6. However, Wallgren et al. does not discuss or even suggest the use of apparatus for any sort of printing. For example, the heater 28 of Wallgren et al. "insures a component to be removed from the board will be evenly heated from the underside thereof, which facilitates a *clean removal of a component from the board* without damage to the leads of the component" (column 3, lines 67-69; and column 4, lines 1-4; emphasis added). In fact, the entire Wallgren et al. reference fails to disclose, teach or suggest **"printing means associated with the working platform, the printing means being configured for printing a plurality of scattering dots on the second surface of the transparent slab,"** as recited in amended claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is novel, unobvious and patentable under both 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103 over Wallgren et al. and indeed any of the other cited references, taken alone or in any combination. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 3 depend directly on claim 1, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 as detailed above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 2 and 3 are also novel, unobvious and patentable under both 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103 over Wallgren et al. and the other cited references, taken alone or in any combination.

Appl. No. 10/769,256
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In view of the above amendments and remarks, the subject application is believed to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By


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